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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

LITTLE et al

Atty. Ref.: 4702-26; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. Unassigned

TC/A.U. Unassigned

Filed: October 3, 2005

Examiner: Unassigned

For: AUTOTHERMAL CRACKING PROCESS

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October 3, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for  
examination, please amend the application as follows: